

GREAT HERRING POND (Plymouth)

General Information:

This 376-acre warm water pond has an average depth of 20 feet and a maximum depth of 42 feet. The bottom is composed of sand, rubble and muck. A tire reef was installed in 1979 to provide additional fish shelter.

The pond is located one mile north of Route 6 near the Cape Cod Canal. To reach the access, take Herring Pond Road north from Route 6, and take a left on Little Sandy Pond Road. The access will be visible just a little way down on the right, before the pond's outlet. From Route 3 South, take Exit 2, the left onto Herring Pond Road. You will see the pond on your right. The Public Access Board gravel ramp enters shallow water and is therefore best suited for canoes, inflatable and other shallow-draft, hand-carried craft.

Great Herring got its name from its large size and herring run, which now feeds into the Cape Cod Canal. The herring spawned in this pond attract striped bass and have created one of the best striper hotspots on the East Coast.

A public health fish consumption advisory has been issued for this pond due to elevated levels of mercury found in some smallmouth bass taken from this water.

Fish Populations:

The pond was last surveyed in the summer of 1984. At that time we found nine species present: yellow perch, white perch, white sucker, brown bullhead, killifish, smallmouth bass, chain pickerel, golden shiner and American eel. Walleye were stocked here experimentally in the 1980s, but failed to thrive.

Fishing:

This pond offers good smallmouth bass and white perch fishing. Try off the points on the eastern shore and also the two sunken islands near the center of the pond. Abundant forage from the Bourndale herring run translates into good growth rates for game and panfish.

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